

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title from "PHOTOELECTRIC CONVERTER" to read --
**PHOTOELECTRIC CONVERTER HAVING A LIGHT RECEIVING PORTION WITH AN
IMPROVED READOUT GATE --**

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A photoelectric converter with improved charge transfer efficiency from a light receiving portion. The photoelectric converter includes a light receiving portion having an output end and a gate portion having a first side and a second side that both define a readout gate width for the light receiving portion, where the first side of the gate portion confronts the output end of the light receiving portion. The photoelectric converter also includes a charge transfer portion formed to confront the second side of the gate portion, where the readout gate width of said gate portion is wider at the first side confronting said light receiving portion than at the second side confronting said charge transfer portion.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute claims 1-5 with the following:

1. (Amended) A photoelectric converter comprising:

a light receiving portion having an output end;

a gate portion having a first side and a second side that both define a readout gate width, the first side confronting the output end of the light receiving portion; and